The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the labor-ist highlights and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 21, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1662 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 7

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

It pains us to light into a hero, but Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker is fast becoming a hero only to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Ever since his return from his miraculous rescue in the Pacific, Capt. Rickenbacker has devoted his time to a harmoniously four of the country attacking labor unions and sneering at the record of America's soldiers of production.

If this is supposed to be "morale building" or helpful to the war effort, Capt. Rickenbacker is being grievously misled. In fact, the War Department has felt it necessary, to divorce itself of any responsibility for Capt. Rickenbacker's utterances. Under Secretary of War Patterson issued a public statement declaring that the former World War ace was speaking as an individual and not as an Army officer in his lecture tours.

This statement effectively blasted the impression Capt. Rickenbacker sought to create that he is the spokesman for the millions of American boys now serving in the armed forces.

The Voice of Big Business

Before analyzing Capt. Rickenbacker's attacks on American workers and the labor unions that represent them, it may be helpful to inquire into his own economic background.

The fact is that Capt. Rickenbacker, in private life, is a business man—a big business man. He is President of Eastern Air Lines. In this capacity he has had extensive dealings with two labor unions which hold contracts with his company—the Airline Pilots Association and the International Association of Machinists, both affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. When questioned by newspaper reporters, Capt. Rickenbacker was forced to admit that his relations with these unions have been friendly and constructive.

"Thus, when Capt. Rickenbacker assails labor unions in general for not cooperating sufficiently in the war effort he is not speaking from personal experience—quite the contrary—but from hearsay.

We would like to know who has fed Capt. Rickenbacker the baloney which he is spouting so energetically.

Furthermore, when Capt. Rickenbacker criticizes conditions in American war factories, he is not speaking from personal observation. He has not made any extensive inspection of such war plants. Those who have, repudiate his uninformed conclusions.

Among these is an entirely unbiased war correspondent, Quentin Reynolds. In an address to Detroit businessmen recently, Reynolds said he had visited thirty American war factories and hundreds in Russia and England. "And I say that nowhere in the world is labor digging in and working as hard as it is right here in America."

Out of His Own Mouth

A report in the New York Times on Capt. Rickenbacker's address last week in Philadelphia confirms our suspicion that his public statements are shaped by his personal political and economic views rather than based on facts.

In the speech referred to Capt. Rickenbacker harshly denounced the payment of overtime for work in factories over forty hours a week and drew some tart comparisons with the service being given by our armed forces in "the foxholes, the swamps and the deserts."

But in the next breath Capt. Rickenbacker expressed opposition to President Roosevelt's order that net salaries be limited to $25,000 a year for the duration. Such a limitation, Capt. Rickenbacker asserted in typical NAM style, would destroy "initiative." He added that "anyone is entitled to work and be paid for it."

In other words, Capt. Rickenbacker believes it is perfectly patriotic for big business men to reap huge profits from the war but reprehensible for the common workingman to get extra compensation for slaving at the machine all day and part of the night—compensation that is necessary to help him and his family meet the increasing high cost of living.

We believe that the juxtaposition of these two statements out of Capt. Rickenbacker's own mouth constitutes an adequate platform so thoroughly that no further comment from us is necessary.

But we should like to point out the danger in his attempt to line up America's fighting men against America's working men. He seems to forget that the men on the firing line are, for the most part, workers themselves or the sons or brothers of men now serving as production soldiers. We fear that if Capt. Rickenbacker continues his unjustified campaign, the very men for whom he professes to speak will suggest that he pipe down.

THE EYES HAD IT

By JACOB A. GOLDBERG, PH.D.
Secretary of the Health Hygiene Committee
New York Tuberculosis and Health Association;
Public Health Consultant, American Social Hygiene Association

ARTICLE VI

The first time physical examinations were started in a large industry, many of the workers were doubting the propriety lifting of bulky objects, riding trucks, loading and unloading. It was a job for husky young men, but the proportion of men rejected for physical disqualifications was there started by the employer and the employes agreed that no one would be dropped because of physical disability uncovered by the examinations unless there was a very serious defect which could not be corrected or obliterated.

A competent and sympathetic physician was employed and he did a fairly thorough job, spending about one-half hour with each worker. Eyes, ears, nose, throat, skin, heart, lungs were examined. Urine specimens were obtained and blood was taken for a Wassermann test for syphilis. In a group of men over 40 and many even over 50, it was natural to find certain disturbances.

A striking fact uncovered was the high proportion of men with serious eye defects. Of course, eyeglasses will serve as easily tolerated crutches for the normal near-sighted or far-sighted person. But some eye defects have deeper roots and cannot be so easily corrected. Among these are partial or total blindness due to syphilis. Incidentally, nearly 10 per cent of the hundreds examined gave evidence in blood examinations of having at some time in their lives acquired syphilis.

A number of leaders and truck drivers were either partially blind in one eye or both eyes or totally blind in one eye with serious complications in the other. No wonder this company had such a bad accident experience. It was this that led in the first place to the plan of physical examinations. Yes, the war has had and is having a syphilitic effect on the health of all instances, either to no treatment or inadequate treatment of syphilis usually acquired in the early twenties or even before—neglected—that is disastrous in middle life.

It is well to remember that syphilis is a blood disease. Where the blood goes, the disease germs travel also. The eyes are among the first organs them are frequently involved when no treatment, insufficient treatment, self-treatment, quack treatment are applied.

Labor and Management Work Unitedly In the War Effort, Steelman Says

Washington, D. C.—"It is no longer of conflict are new exacting their toll necessary to say again and again that of life and liberty in every part of the labor and management must pull hand in hand. Out of this era of conflict together in a cooperative effort to win should come dominant forces of good the war," declared John R. Steelman, and not of the mistakes of events. Those director of the United States Conciliation who refuse to sympathetic understanding. Service, in an address on the Labor News Review program of the Columbia Broadcasting System here.

"History will record that they have done their full share, provided they do not essay take exception to these statements is thinking of isolated cases and not of the main body of events.

"The liberties we are fighting for in every part of the world, which embrace the rights and opportunities of the average man, will continue to be the rights and responsibilities of every free citizen.

"This is the essence of the democratic principle and American progress. It has been based upon it in the past. It will continue to be an uphill fight in the days ahead. I cannot see any steep path in economic ascent with the dawn of peace.

"This is simply another way of saying we shall continue to have the problems of human relations which must be ironed out on the domestic front as well as in the courts of industrial relationships. The desire to get together and work together harmoniously is basic to the success of all programs of cooperation. The forces and will and peace that will bring new solutions to their problems through peaceful, voluntary procedures. During the past year we were able to settle over 9,400 labor disputes involving over 5,000,000 workers. In addition to settling labor disputes last year, we conducted 1,600 labor union elections surveys and handed down 731 arbitration awards. Of all the disputes brought to the service in the threatened strikes and controversy stage, we were able to settle more than 95 per cent of the cases without any interruption of work whatsoever.

"The necessary means for handling disputes quickly, effectively, and in a democratic way will be used in the coming months in order that we may meet our new goals of production, and thus win the peace."

New Milestone in AFL's Progress

Washington, D. C.—For the first time in history, the dues-paid membership in the American Federation of Labor has topped the 6,000,000 mark, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany announced.

He reported that the total dues-paid AFL membership as of January 31, 1943 was 6,194,382. This is not only the highest figure ever recorded by the AFL but is also the highest mark ever attained by any labor organization in the world. It represents a membership gain during the first month of this year alone of 253,776; a gain of 1,215,467 since December 31, 1941, and a gain of 3,346,277 dues-paid members since 1937, when the organizations that went over to the CIO were dropped from the Federation's rolls.

Mr. Meany emphasized the fact that the all-time-high membership which he announced is not a claimed or estimated membership, but an official figure based on per capita dues payments appearing on the Federation's books which are audited periodically. The figures are included in the Federation's financial reports, which are available in public libraries all over the country.

The membership total, Mr. Meany further pointed out, does not include a considerable floating and unemployed membership which is not paying dues. Such a membership, however, is entitled to work in this day of peace. The membership includes those employed in the labor unions that represent them, it may be helpful to inquire into his own economic background.

Davis And Land Praise Seamen For Patriotic Devotion To Duty

Washington, D. C.—America's 70,000 merchant sailors, suffering a casualty toll of nearly 4 per cent of their number in the first year of war, have "delivered the goods," and shown "patriotism, courage and devotion to duty," Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information, announced.

Davis made public a report by Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, War Shipping Administrator, which showed "American seamen are loyal and efficient."

High points of Land's report include:

1. Merchant marine casualties (dead and missing only) have totaled more than 2,300 in one year of war. Casualties of the armed services in the same period amounted to less than 1 per cent of their total strength.

2. About three-fourths of the offshore merchant seamen are always at sea—"in the front line."

3. Willingness of sailors to brave bombs and torpedoes was shown recently when 100,000 persons responded to WSA's call for experienced seamen.

4. Actual pay for the average able seaman or fireman, figuring in his food and room averages around $57 a week—about what a second class ranger earns in a shipyard.

5. WSA's labor relations division, which investigates all reports of infraction of discipline, found practically all such incidents occurred in port, and were the result of the continued strain under which seamen work.

6 Despite an expected increase in enemy attacks on our merchant shipping, a greater proportion of survivals is expected in 1943 because of (1) more escort vessels, (2) better-armed ships, (3) more and improved safety devices, and (4) more experienced crews. More and better-equipped lifeboats are required under new regulations just issued.

Labor To Help Government Agencies Keep Lid On Food Price Ceilings

Washington, D. C.—Price panels, including labor members, to secure local cooperation with price ceilings will be appointed to the nation's 5501 local War Price and Rationing Boards, under a procedure agreed upon by the Office of Price Administration and the Office of Civilian Defense.

Each of the three-member price panels will train and direct 6 to 10 workers, recruited from the local defense council, in the work of assisting retailers in the community to understand price regulations.

In explaining the composition of the panels, the OPA points out that "men, hereby should include those representing labor and, where appropriate, women from retail clerks union," and adds:

"In view of the direct interest of labor in food prices every effort should be made to appoint a labor representative as one of the members of the price panel.

"Unions of all affiliations will get together in each locality and draw up a list of proposed labor representatives and their qualifications. This is submitted by the local defense council to the OPA state or OPA district office, who makes appointments to the local price panels from these lists.

The OPA calls attention to its instructions that, "No person engaged or financially interested in the selling of commodities or services, or a board member, in board price or rationing activity involving that field in which he is interested."

This provision excludes retailers or persons financially interested in or employed by a retail store from price panels.

The first function of the price panels will be to guide and direct the volunteer price aids. These OCD volunteers will distribute literature, explain the regulation to retailers, collect information on violations for a post-war program which will guarantee the rights of consumers in the Four Freedoms throughout the world.

They expressed deep appreciation of the war aid given by the United States to Great Britain in her time of need and emphasized the need for greater cooperation between Great Britain and American labor for expediting victory and for assuring post-war security.

Frank Wolstencroft, of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, which is equivalent to the carpenters' union in this country, declared that despite the hardships Britain has suffered, British workers are still on the job, and producing more than ever before.

These hardships, he said, are caused by the totality of the war effort and the resultant shortages of food and labor and materials.

"Apart from suffering from such acute labor shortages that the men and women in our war factories must work practically long hours without letup," Wolstencroft continued.

"Jobs can be obtained only through the central Employment Exchange and workers can be directed by the Government to go to any part of the country where they are needed. Safeguards have been established to prevent unnecessary breaking up of married men have been taken away from their homes. Where this occurs allowance for lodgings near the site of their new jobs."

The regulations governing employment were issued only after full consultation with labor and after the formation of the British Trades Union Congress, Wolstencroft said, and wages and hours still left to be negotiated, as before, between the Employers Federation and the trade unions.

Harry Harrison, president of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trade Unions Federation said:

"You have made magnificent progress in the war effort. I am impressed by the adaptability of American industry and the skill of American workers. Together we will nearly double war production totals during this year."

He emphasized the need for extending the use of Joint Production Committees made up of labor and management representatives to solve war production problems. He described the work of these committees in factories in Britain as follows:

"Suppose there is a labor shortage in a war factory that is holding up production. The Joint Production Committee determines the facts and sends an emergency call to the Government Service Exchange which promptly supplies the workers. No labor hoarding is tolerated. If the Joint Production Committee finds there are too many workers in a factory and that they being retained the Government is notified to assign the surplus workers to other plants where they can be badly needed. The same is true of materials, whenever a factory has over-supplies they tend to exist. Furthermore, when production slows down for any unexplained reason or if absenteeism becomes acute, problems of other kinds develop, the Joint Production Committee immediately probes for the source of the trouble and acts effectively to rectify the situation."

John Marchbank, of the National Union of Railway Men of Great Britain, discussed post-war objectives. He said:

"The first objective after victory is achieved is a universal one, shared by human beings the world over. It is to maintain harmony and security in peace. That is only possible as President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have so wisely pointed out, by the extension of the Four Freedoms to every nation on earth. When we have established freedom from fear and freedom from want, along with the basic freedoms of speech, religions, press and assemblage, we will have a foundation on which the peace of the world can rest secure."

"Our first move must be to secure representation for the trade union movements in the peace conferences which will chart the world's post-war course.

"We will insist that the right of workers to associate in free trade unions be restored in those nations which have been overrun and oppressed by the Nazi dictators. It is our feeling that the restoration of labor rights is a prime step toward the rehabilitation of these countries.

"Our next step will be to advance equitable plans for the establishment of social security which would banish forever the dark dread of want from the cradle to the grave. This program has been talked about a great deal but labor will insist that something definite be done about it. We believe that it is incumbent upon democratic governments to see to it that the people are provided with satisfactory homes, that they are given medical care when ill, that they will be safeguarded against the hazards of unemployment and that they can look forward to a life provided for, not as a matter of charity, but as a matter of right."

In closing, Mr. Marchbank said:

"Speaking for my colleagues and myself, it is a pleasure to express our deep appreciation for the help which American has given Great Britain in her time of need. And also, we wish to express our gratitude to the leaders of the American Federation of Labor for their humility and the many courtesies extended to us during our brief visit here."

AFL Backs 48-Hour Week Order But Will Fight Further Extension; British Warn Of "Fatigue Point"

The President's Executive Order

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order providing for a minimum work week of forty-eight hours wherever the War Manpower Commission deems it necessary as part of "the fullest mobilization" of the nation to carry out this year's war plans for a tremendous invasion of enemy-held Europe.

AFL President William Green immediately announced approval of the President's order but warned against any further extension of the work week which would, he said, adversely affect production. Mr. Green declared:

"We are thoroughly in accord with the President's program. We have long advocated the forty-eight hour week in war industries and our unions have put it into effect for the most part.

"We will, however, oppose any further lengthening of the work week beyond the forty-eight hours because that would constitute a great risk to the endurance of the workers and would result in lowering the efficiency of production."

War Manpower Commissioner McNutt announced that for the time being the order issued by the President would apply only in the thirty-two "labor shortage" areas previously designated by the WMC.

It was believed in chief effect would be on non-war industries, since firms engaged in war production already have put their plants on a forty-eight hour basis per man, or more. However, it is felt that if civilian goods industries increase their work week, they will be able to release some of their employes for jobs in war plants.

The President's Executive Order specifically provided that the forty-eight hour week rule requires employers to pay overtime in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and other legislation and in accordance with standards in union contracts. These overtime provisions are not in any way abrogated by the new order.

Chief criticism of the Executive Order came from employers and so-called economists who invariably reflect the employer point of view. They warned that unless exceptions are made in pay wherever possible from the requirement of paying overtime, and expressed fears of inflation.

However, AFL leaders pointed out that application of the rigid "Little Steel" wage formula by the National War Labor Board has prevented wages from keeping pace with the cost of living and that such increased income as workers will receive from overtime will be far less inflationary than the extra profits employers would receive from longer hours of production without added overhead expense.

The Executive Order was issued simultaneously with a radio address by James F. Byrnes, Economic Stabilization Director, warning that Federal wage controls will not be relaxed. The two actions were interpreted in some quarters as indicating that Byrnes is ready to yield on other points in the entire stabilization program by demanding $2 a day wage increases for miners, "or else."

It was pointed out that the AFL's policy on wages was moderate and aimed at preserving the balance between the cost of living and wages, rather than upsetting the nation's domestic war economy.

British Labor Leaders Hail U. S. Aid, Ask AFL For Joint Post-War Plan

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor, on the "Labor For Victory" radio program, extended the hand of fellowship to the workers of Great Britain "who have proved under enemy fire and extreme hardship that free labor will win this war."

Three British labor leaders, who made the hazardous trip by air from country to attend the sessions of the Joint Committee of the American Federation of Labor and the British Trades Union Congress, were interviewed on the program by Gardner Jackson, a battled Britain, their impressions of the progress of war production in Britain since their visit here for a post-war program which will guarantee the rights of workers throughout the world.

They expressed deep appreciation of the war aid given by the United States to Great Britain in her time of need and emphasized the need for greater cooperation between Great Britain and American labor for expediting victory and for assuring post-war security.

Frank Wolstencroft, of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, which is equivalent to the carpenters' union in this country, declared that despite the hardships they have suffered, British workers are still on the job, and producing more than ever before.

These hardships, he said, are caused by the totality of the war effort and the resultant shortages of food and labor and materials.

"Apart from suffering from such acute labor shortages that the men and women in our war factories must work practically long hours without letup," Wolstencroft continued.

"Jobs can be obtained only through the central Employment Exchange and workers can be directed by the Government to go to any part of the country where they are needed. Safeguards have been established to prevent unnecessary breaking up of married men have been taken away from their homes. Where this occurs allowance for lodgings near the site of their new jobs."

The regulations governing employment were issued only after full consultation with labor and after the formation of the British Trades Union Congress, Wolstencroft said, and wages and hours still left to be negotiated, as before, between the Employers Federation and the trade unions.

Harry Harrison, president of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trade Unions Federation said:

"You have made magnificent progress in the war effort. I am impressed by the adaptability of American industry and the skill of American workers. Together we will nearly double war production totals during this year."

He emphasized the need for extending the use of Joint Production Committees made up of labor and management representatives to solve war production problems. He described the work of these committees in factories in Britain as follows:

"Suppose there is a labor shortage in a war factory that is holding up production. The Joint Production Committee determines the facts and sends an emergency call to the Government Service Exchange which promptly supplies the workers. No labor hoarding is tolerated. If the Joint Production Committee finds there are too many workers in a factory and that they being retained the Government is notified to assign the surplus workers to other plants where they can be badly needed. The same is true of materials, whenever a factory has over-supplies they tend to exist. Furthermore, when production slows down for any unexplained reason or if absenteeism becomes acute, problems of other kinds develop, the Joint Production Committee immediately probes for the source of the trouble and acts effectively to rectify the situation."

John Marchbank, of the National Union of Railway Men of Great Britain, discussed post-war objectives. He said:

"The first objective after victory is achieved is a universal one, shared by human beings the world over. It is to maintain harmony and security in peace. That is only possible as President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have so wisely pointed out, by the extension of the Four Freedoms to every nation on earth. When we have established freedom from fear and freedom from want, along with the basic freedoms of speech, religions, press and assemblage, we will have a foundation on which the peace of the world can rest secure."

"Our first move must be to secure representation for the trade union movements in the peace conferences which will chart the world's post-war course.

"We will insist that the right of workers to associate in free trade unions be restored in those nations which have been overrun and oppressed by the Nazi dictators. It is our feeling that the restoration of labor rights is a prime step toward the rehabilitation of these countries.

"Our next step will be to advance equitable plans for the establishment of social security which would banish forever the dark dread of want from the cradle to the grave. This program has been talked about a great deal but labor will insist that something definite be done about it. We believe that it is incumbent upon democratic governments to see to it that the people are provided with satisfactory homes, that they are given medical care when ill, that they will be safeguarded against the hazards of unemployment and that they can look forward to a life provided for, not as a matter of charity, but as a matter of right."

In closing, Mr. Marchbank said:

"Speaking for my colleagues and myself, it is a pleasure to express our deep appreciation for the help which American has given Great Britain in her time of need. And also, we wish to express our gratitude to the leaders of the American Federation of Labor for their humility and the many courtesies extended to us during our brief visit here."

British Labor Confirms AFL View On Danger of Excessive Hours

Washington, D. C.—President William Green announced that consultation with British labor leaders has strengthened the determination of the American Federation of Labor to resist any attempt to lengthen the work week in this country beyond forty-eight hours.

His statement came at the conclusion of a two-day conference of the joint committee of the AFL and the British Trades Union Congress, during which representatives of both organizations compared notes on experiences in dealing with war production problems.

Sir Walter Citrine, who headed the British delegation, revealed that although the work-week in Great Britain has been reduced to an average of fifty-five hours from a "much higher figure," even this figure cannot be sustained "because our workers have reached the fatigue point."

He explained that the drain of long hours on the energies of the workers is resulting in diminishing production returns per man-hour, thus making further shortening of the work week advisable in the interests of efficiency.

It was also brought out during the conferences that the longer work day in Great Britain—averaging ten hours—is made necessary by conditions which do not exist here. For instance, there is no outdoor work in shipyards and other establishments at night in Britain because of the blackout. Round-the-clock production, such as is possible in America on a three eight-hour shift basis, is made unfeasible from the standpoint of production results, as well as the individual worker's health and endurance.

Many vitally important war problems were thoroughly canvassed at the conferences, including manpower, wage policies, taxes, rationing systems and restrictive legislation.

The AFL representatives were deeply impressed by the insistence of the visiting delegates that the British labor movement would "object most strenuously" to the imposition of wage ceilings by the Government or by anyone else.

Sir Walter Citrine explained that wage matters are still left in Britain to collective bargaining between employers and the trade unions. If they cannot agree, the dispute is referred to arbitration courts.

However, Citrine emphasized that British labor would refuse to accept any rigid wage formula which would restrict wage increases.

This policy was especially interesting to Chairman of the American Federation of Labor's current demands that the "Little Steel" wage formula which now restricts wage increases in the country to 15 per cent above the wage level of Jan. 1, 1941, be abandoned in favor of a more flexible system which would permit consideration of each wage case on its merits.

Nevertheless, a comparison of the status of British and American labor at the conferences showed that in England workers are for the most part much more closely regulated and restricted than here. The chief restrictions result from "essential work orders" which freeze workers in their jobs and from compulsory service laws which permit the Government to order workers to take jobs where the authorities see fit. This has resulted in breaking up many homes because in numerous cases men are required to leave their families and go to work far from their home communities.

The latter part of the conferences, which Citrine described as "most significant and highly successful," were taken up with a discussion of post-war objectives. It was agreed at the outset that much research work must be done in this field before it will be possible for British and American labor to arrive at joint understandings for post-war objectives. It was pointed out that the International Federation of Trade Unions is now making extensive studies into proposed post-war social security programs which will be helpful when these questions are given further consideration at future sessions.

It was decided that the next meeting of the joint committee will be held during the first week of July in London, England.

AFL representatives on the committee included President Green and Secretary-Treasurer Meany. Harry Hutchenson and Brown. The British delegates included Citrine, Andrew Conley, Harry Harrison, Frank Wolstencroft and Harry Hartwell.

SENATORS WALK OUT ON LEE O'DANIEL

Washington, D. C.—The contempt in which the members of the United States Senate hold their colleague from Texas, Senator Lester Lee O'Daniel, was evidenced when only seven of them remained in the Senate Chamber when he launched on a speech denouncing labor and organized labor.

Before O'Daniel concluded his tirade three of the seven left the hall.

HINES TO SUCCEED PAUL SCHARRENBERG

Washington, D. C.—Paul Scharrenberg, 76, died suddenly June 25, 1937, as a member of the National Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor, resigned effective February 21, 1943, to become effective February 21, 1943, to become effective upon appointment by Governor Warren of California as Director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

Lewis Hines, former Director of Organization for the American Federation of Labor, was appointed to succeed Scharrenberg, effective February 15, 1943, to fill the vacancy caused by MA Scharrenberg's resignation.

The Legislative Committee will continue to be headed by W. C. Hushing, as chairman.

ILLNESS HELD MAIN CAUSE OF WORKERS' ABSENTEEISM

New York—Over-indulgence in alcoholic beverages is a negligible factor in causing absenteeism among war workers, according to a report made public here, of a survey conducted by Allied Liquor Industries among 200 companies which increased production and employing more than an estimated 3 million workers. Maintenance of 70 per cent of the companies responding reported that illness was the major cause of absenteeism.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS MUSICIANS IN TEST CASE

Washington, D. C.—The United States Supreme Court delivered another stinging rebuke to Attorney General Thomas C. Clark man Arnold when it unanimously upheld a lower court ruling denying Arnold an injunction against the American Federation of Musicians.

Arnold sought the injunction to restrain the union from continuing its ban on the making of recordings which result in the displacement of live musicians from radio jobs. A lower court in John P. Barnes in Chicago ruled last Summer that the ban was based on a labor dispute and pointed out that the Norris-La Guardia Act prohibits the issuance of injunctions where a labor dispute is involved.

The Supreme Court held that Judge Barnes' interpretation of the law was correct and that Arnold was wrong—as usual.

CHICAGO LABOR OFFICIAL WINS NAVY MERIT AWARD

Chicago.—President Patrick W. Sullivan of Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council has been awarded the U. S. Navy's award for merit for his help in obtaining volunteers for the navy's construction battalion.